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HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ELEMENT IN VIRGINIA. By Herrmann Schuricht. Vol. II, 13th and 14th Annual Reports of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. [Baltimore], 1900.

That there was a large and important German element among the Colonial settlers of Virginia has been long known to all students of our history, though our historical publications give but little information concerning it, and some of that little, incorrectly. But this has not been, as some have inconsiderately stated, because of a wilful ignoring of the Germans by our historians and historical societies, but simply because the required information was extremely difficult to obtain. Settling as they did in a remote portion of the Colony, using a foreign language, forming at most but a small proportion of the population of the Colony, it should not excite surprise that there has been so little in our histories in regard to the German element. The Germans did constitute an important portion of our population, and their history is one which interests all who care for Virginia's past; but it seems to us that it is the duty of those who have the local knowledge and opportunity to collect material for such a history, to give it to the public. Historical data relating to the Germans of Virginia, will always find a welcome to the pages of this *Magazine*.

When the late Mr. Schuricht's first volume was announced, sincere pleasure was felt in the belief that a long needed contribution to Virginia history would be made. But on reading, such hopes were quickly blasted. With great enthusiasm for his subject, and much knowledge of many of its phases, the author displayed so little judgment, such great ignorance of elementary facts of the history of Virginia and the Virginia people, and made so many utterly unfounded claims, that the book is practically worthless. It is true that there is much of interest and value; but unless one is well acquainted with our history and our people, the book is sure to mislead. When the first volume appeared, it was examined for review; but as it appeared that such a review as the limits of this *Magazine* will admit would have to be simply a list of errata, the intention was abandoned. The appearance of the second volume, however, makes it necessary that a warning should be given. What the German race has done in and for Virginia needs no exaggeration, and it is a pity that the lamented author's energy and enthusiasm shall not have worked to better results.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD. By Mary Johnston author of "Prisoners of Hope." Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1900.

In her second work, Miss Johnston has given to the world the most stirring and interesting Virginia historical novel ever written, and one of the very best of all America. With a fascinating style and an engrossing plot, she has preserved (what the old school of Virginia historical novels did not do at all) a close adherence to the actual historic and social conditions of the time. There are chapters in her book which would form admirable school reading for classes in Virginia history.